

## **TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission**

### **Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by Sections 202 and 355 of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret or make specific Sections 202, 355 and 356 of said Code, proposes to amend Section 502, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to Waterfowl, Migratory; American Coot and Common Moorhen.

#### **Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview**

Current regulations in Section 502, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), provide definitions, hunting zone descriptions, season opening and closing dates, and establish daily bag and possession limits. In addition to the five proposals contained herein, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), through the analysis of waterfowl population survey and other data, may also initiate changes in federal regulations which will require changes in existing and proposed regulations in California. Changes in federal regulations for season opening and closing dates, elimination or creation of special management areas, season length, and daily bag limits for migratory birds may occur. Three (items 1, 3, and 4) of the five proposed changes to state regulations require changes in the federal regulations. These proposals must be approved by the Pacific Flyway Council at their meeting on July 20, 2005. The Service will consider these and other recommendations at their meeting on July 27-28, 2005. Item 5 (including the table) below proposes a range of season dates and bag limits for waterfowl. At this time, the California Breeding Pair Survey has not been conducted and the Service has not established federal regulation "frameworks" which occurs in late July after the analysis of current waterfowl population survey, other data, input from the Flyway Councils and the public. Also, minor editorial changes were made to clarify and simplify the regulations and to comply with existing federal frameworks.

1. Remove the Sacramento Valley (East) Special Management Area and allow the take of Canada geese in that area throughout the Balance of State Zone goose season.
2. Remove the Imperial County Special Management Area and eliminate the special hunting season for white geese.
3. Increase the white goose daily bag limit in all zones from 3 to 4; which results in an increase in the overall goose daily bag limit in the Northeastern California, Southern San Joaquin Valley, and Balance of State zones.
4. Increase the Small Canada goose daily bag limit to 4 in the Northeastern California, Southern San Joaquin Valley, and Balance of State zones.
5. Provide a range of season lengths (which may be split into two segments) between 0 and 107 days for the general duck season and 0 and 100 days for the general goose season. A range of daily bag limits is also given for ducks in all zones and geese in the Northeastern California, Southern San Joaquin Valley, and Balance of State zones. There are no anticipated or proposed changes to the goose daily bag limit in the Southern California and Colorado River zones. Also, federal regulations require that California's hunting regulations conform to those of Arizona in the Colorado River Zone. In addition, regulations for black brant are expected to become more restrictive. Winter counts in 2004-05 were low enough to trigger harvest restrictions as identified in the Flyway Management Plan. See the following table.

AREA	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Statewide	Coots & Moorhens	Concurrent w/duck season	25/day. 25 in possession
	Black Brant	15 day or 18 day split season	2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag
Northeastern Zone	Ducks	Between 38 & 100 days	4-7/day, no more than 3-7 mallards, no more than 1-2 hen mallards, 0-3 pintail, 0-1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 0-4 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Pintail	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Canvasback	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Geese	Between 0 & 100 days	3-4/ day, up to 3-4 white geese, up to 2 white-fronts, up to 2 Large Canada geese, up to 1-4 Small Canada geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	Ducks	Between 38 & 100 days	4-7/day, no more than 3-7 mallards, no more than 1-2 hen mallards, 0-3 pintail, 0-1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 0-4 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Pintail	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Canvasback	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Geese	Between 0 & 100 days	3-4/ day, up to 3-4 white geese, up to 3 white-fronts, up to 3 Large Canada geese, up to 1-4 Small Canada geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
Colorado River Zone	Ducks	Between 38 & 101 days	4-7/day, no more than 3-7 mallards, no more than 2 hen mallards or Mexican-like ducks, 1-3 pintail, 0-1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 0-4 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Pintail	Between 0 & 101 days	
	Canvasback	Between 0 & 101 days	
	Geese	101 days	6/ day, up to 3-4 white geese, up to 3 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
Southern California Zone	Ducks	Between 38 & 100 days	4-7/day, no more than 3-7 mallards, no more than 1-2 hen mallards, 0-3 pintail, 0-1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 0-4 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Pintail	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Canvasback	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Geese	Between 0 & 100 days	5/day, up to 3-4 white geese, up to 3 white-fronted geese, up to 3 Large Canada geese, up to 3 Small Canada geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
Balance of State Zone	Ducks	Between 38 & 100 days	4-7/day, no more than 3-7 mallards, no more than 1-2 hen mallards, 0-3 pintail, 0-1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 0-4 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Pintail	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Canvasback	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Geese	Between 0 & 100 days	3-4/ day, up to 3-4 white geese, up to 3 white-fronts, up to 3 Large Canada geese, up to 1-4 Small Canada geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
SPECIAL AREA REGULATIONS	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
North Coast	All Canada Geese	Between 0 & 100 days	2-4/day, only 1 may be a Large Canada goose. Possession limit double the daily bag.
South Humboldt Bay	All species	Closed during brant season	
Sacramento Valley (West)	White-fronted geese	Closed after Dec 14	2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
Morro Bay	All species	Open in designated areas only	
Martis Creek Lake	All species	Closed until Nov 16	
YOUTH HUNTING DAYS	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	The Saturday fourteen days before the opening of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	Same as regular season
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone		The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	
Southern California Zone		The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	
Colorado River Zone		The Saturday following the closing for waterfowl season.	
Balance of State Zone		The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	
FALCONRY TAKE OF DUCKS	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	Between 38 and 105 days	3/ day, possession limit 6
Balance of State Zone		Between 38 and 107 days	
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone		Between 38 and 107 days	
Southern California Zone		Between 38 and 107 days	
Colorado River Zone	Ducks only	Between 38 and 106 days	

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN** that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1050 Monterey Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, San Luis Obispo, California on Friday, August 19, 2005, at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before August 12, 2005, at the address given below, or by fax at (916) 653-5040, or by e-mail to [FGC@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:FGC@dfg.ca.gov). Written comments mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the Commission office, must be received before 5:00 p.m. on August 16, 2005. All comments must be received no later than August 19, 2005, at the hearing in San Luis Obispo, CA. All written comments must include the true name and mailing address of the commentor.

The regulations as proposed in ~~strikeout~~-underline format, as well as an initial statement of reasons, including environmental considerations and all information upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Robert R. Treanor, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to Robert R. Treanor or Sherrie Koell at the preceding address or phone number. **John Carlson, Department of Fish and Game, phone (916) 445-3555, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.** Copies of the Initial Statement of Reasons, including the regulatory language, may be obtained from the address above. Notice of the proposed action shall be posted on the Fish and Game Commission website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

#### Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Circumstances beyond the control of the Commission (e.g., timing of Federal regulation adoption, timing of resource data collection, timelines do not allow, etc.) or changes made to be responsive to public recommendation and comments during the regulatory process may preclude full compliance with the 15-day comment period, and the Commission will exercise its powers under Section 202 of the Fish and Game Code. Regulations adopted pursuant to this section are not subject to the time periods for adoption, amendment or repeal of regulations prescribed in Sections 11343.4, 11346.4 and 11346.8 of the Government Code. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

#### Impact of Regulatory Action

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Business, including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact

directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed regulations are intended to provide additional recreational opportunity to the public. The response is expected to be minor in nature.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California: None.
- (c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:  
  
The Commission is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.
- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.
- (e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.
- (f) Programs mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.
- (g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4: None.
- (h) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

#### Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business.

#### Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Dated: June 21, 2005

Robert R. Treanor  
Executive Director